

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, no one knows exactly why autism strikes approximately 1 in every 500 individuals.

Autism not only has no known cause, but it has, sadly, no known cure. Sadly enough, the national rates of children being diagnosed with autism are increasing dramatically. For example, in the State of California, the numbers have increased 237 percent in the last 10 years. In my home State, 50 percent of the children diagnosed with autism reside within my community of south Florida.

The pictures that I would like to show to my colleagues and to the viewers tonight that we see here are of Bonnie and Willis Flick, two autistic children residing in my Congressional District who are fortunate enough to receive treatment and intervention therapy to help them cope with every day life.

A good day for Bonnie is similar to the one we just heard about Nora. Bonnie is a high functioning autistic child who attends a very special school, The Learning Experience in Miami. And because autism is a spectrum disease that is manifested in a variety of forms, some children are not as high functioning as Bonnie.

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For example, life for Bonnie's autistic brother, Willis, is a bit more difficult. Willis is mostly nonverbal and is not able to tell his mother that he is hungry or sleepy or not feeling well. He is unable to verbally express his joy, anger, or frustration; and that makes life all the more difficult for those around him.

Bonnie and Willis receive professional assistance to help them optimize their potential and learning capabilities. But there are many autistic children who are less fortunate.

As if families of autistic children did not suffer enough distress, one of the biggest challenges facing them is finding health coverage for treatment and therapy of this condition.

Fortunately, Nora's parents, as well as Bonnie and Willis' parents, have been able to work through obstacles to ultimately find the care that their families so desperately need.

Many families, however, are not as fortunate. We must continue to work so that all health insurance and health maintenance organizations include coverage for services to treat autism.

In my Congressional district, the University of Miami operates the Center for Autism and Related Diseases, CARD, which helps hundreds of children and their families whose lives are impacted with autism.

The CARD centers operate throughout the State of Florida and provide free individual and family assistance services as well as training programs for the parent and the professional. These centers focus on finding ways to change the behaviors and perceptions of individuals with autism in a way

that will allow them to successfully learn, work, and communicate.

Mr. Speaker, we need to continue to support centers like CARD whose services benefit families struggling through the ordeal of autism.

Last week, the House passed the Children's Health Act, which contains a provision to establish centers of research and expertise. It is establishments like these that will help families of autistic children.

I hope that, on behalf of the Bonnies and the Willises and the Noras in their districts, my colleagues will continue to pass legislation like the Children's Health Act and provide funding to research the causes for this disorder. With continued research, every day we are one day closer to finding a cure for this debilitating disability.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHERWOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DOOLEY of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, the vote on permanent normal trade relations with China may be one of the most important votes that we will cast in years.

China represents an agricultural market that is vital to the long-term success of American farmers and ranchers. Agriculture trade with China can strengthen development of private enterprise in this country and bring China more fully into the world trade membership. We intend to work for that goal and urge all of U.S. agriculture to join with us.

China's participation in the WTO will result in at least \$2 billion per year in additional U.S. exports within the next 5 years. That is just U.S. agricultural exports.

By 2005, the largest increases in the annual value of China's net agricultural imports are likely to be \$587 million for corn, \$543 million for wheat, and \$359 million for cotton.

According to the Economic Research Service, net farm income would be higher by \$1.7 billion in 2005 and higher by an average of \$1.1 billion over the years 2000 to 2009 for each year.

Listen to what agricultural groups are saying about China PNTR. The U.S. wheat growers say that PNTR represents a potential 10 percent increase in U.S. wheat exports. The U.S. pork producers believe that China PNTR will pave the way for an increased value in hogs by \$5 a head.

Poultry producers say that because China is already the largest export market for poultry, \$350 million in 1999, under PNTR it can become a \$1 billion market in just a few years.

Cattle producers believe that a vote against PNTR is a vote against them. They expect to almost triple beef export to China by the year 2005.

Corn growers believe that they have an opportunity to immediately triple their 5-year average of corn exports to China with acceptance to PNTR.

Some who oppose PNTR for China will weigh that China is an agricultural glut and will never buy U.S. commodities. That is not true according to USDA's Economic Research Service. They say that China's accession to the WTO means that U.S. farmers and ranchers can sell an additional \$1.6 billion worth of agricultural products in 5 years.

On top of that, \$400 million of U.S. fruits, vegetables, and animal products can be sold by 2005 upon China's entry into the WTO. That is \$2 billion more of agricultural exports in 5 years. This view is supported by the widespread support among U.S. agricultural commodity groups for China PNTR.

Still, others argue that China is self-sufficient in agriculture production and that it produces enough to feed its own people and does not need U.S. wheat or corn or any commodity. But listen to what the Worldwatch Institute Chairman Lester Brown said. He said that China's water supplies in its grain-producing areas are falling at a high rate. He sees massive grain imports and growing dependence on U.S. grain.

The reality is that no one can predict the future. China imports large amounts of U.S. agricultural commodities right now, some through Hong Kong, \$2.5 billion in 1999 of agriculture, fish, and forestry products.

Greater access to Chinese markets means greater opportunities for U.S. high-quality agriculture products. As the diets of the Chinese improve, there will be more demand for high-quality agricultural products and value-added food products. This is what U.S. farmers and the food industry can provide to Chinese consumers.

It must be remembered that China has access to the U.S. market right now. China will become a member of WTO; and after its accession to the WTO, it will still have access to the market. The vote for PNTR will decide whether U.S. agriculture will have improved access to Chinese markets or that we will see that market to the competitors of U.S. agriculture.

We have all heard the argument that PNTR is not necessary and that if Congress rejects China PNTR that U.S. exporters still will attain the benefits of China's WTO accession. But the General Accounting Office says that the full benefits of the November 1999 agreement negotiated by the U.S. will not be available unless Congress adopts China PNTR.